

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Published Since 1877

## First person...

# Transplant makes Mother's Day a special blessing

By Scotti Doler

*Editor's Note: Scotti Wilson Doler received a heart-double lung transplant in August 1990. The Leland resident is the mother of three children: Andrea, 17; Scott, 13; and Jondelyn, 8.*

The Alabama Donor Service provided for me a bumper sticker that says, "Don't take your organs to Heaven. Heaven knows we need them here."

Your organs are basically like your money or your jewelry — you cannot take them with you when you die!

The moment that you die, they no longer can serve any useful purpose for you.

There is no "11th Commandment" which says, "You shall be an organ donor." However, in searching the Bible for principles that apply, there are at least two truths that speak to me:

First is the Christian belief in life after death. We believe that the body goes back to

dust and that the real person lives in the presence of God in a new existence of perfect peace and love in a dimension that we can only partially grasp. Thus, the body has served its purpose.

Just as the earthly body of Jesus was beaten and pierced for others, Christians have been persecuted, mutilated, and put to death throughout the centuries. There is no Christian commandment for trying to preserve the body in any form or fashion. "For we know that when this tent we live in — our body here on earth is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.... God is the one who has prepared us for this change, and he gave us his Spirit as the guarantee of all that he has in store for us" (2 Cor. 5:1, 5).

The second Christian principle that could easily apply to the donor situation is that of Christian generosity. Jesus said in Matthew

5:42, "Give to him that asketh thee."

What a wondrous gift — this gift of life. I sometimes think about my donor. During my daily walks, I wonder if he enjoyed nature and the outdoors. When I watch my son play baseball, I wonder if my donor enjoyed sports. When I travel to a new place, I wonder if he had a chance to visit there.

The Mother's Day that I was on the transplant list was a very difficult one for me. We have all been touched by sad stories of children losing their mothers. Well, when the children facing this loss are the three children you love the most in the world, it's an especially sad story.

On the Mother's Day following my transplant, my tears were tears of joy because I had a new chance at life. I cherished my children's presence as I was filled with hope that I would be able to be there when they needed me.

My thoughts turned often that day to my donor's mother. I can imagine that the loss of her 19-year-old son made that Mother's Day difficult for her.

I wonder if she can imagine what Mother's Day means to me.

What a gift!

Doler is organist for First Church, Leland, where her husband Jon is pastor.



Scotti Doler

## Do you know how to be a mother?

An instinctive response within us motivates us maternally. But, to be honest, such a reaction surprises me. I want to be a good mom. But I've always seemed an unlikely candidate.

I grew up in a broken home. My parents were divorced when I was five. My older sister, younger brother, and I were raised by my alcoholic mother, and we saw our father only rarely.

These are the "upside" lessons of the "upside-down" reality of living with an alcoholic:

From my mother I learned to be strong and to protect myself. In her alcoholic absence, I sheltered my brother. I acquired confidence and leadership. I learned how to live. But I didn't learn how to mother.

It's understandable that in the days preceding the arrival of my daughter, I struggled with inadequacy.

"Do you know what you're doing?" I asked myself. "Do you know how to mother?" The same questions came when I first received the

call from a board member of Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) International, who wanted me to consider becoming their first president.

It took three months of prayer and doubled-up therapy sessions for God to convince me that I was just what he wanted. I began to see all the other women just like me who were tackling the job of mothering — some with worse backgrounds.

In the years of serving as president of MOPS International, I've become convinced that the very deficit I'd experienced was actually the offering God would have me bring to the task. God doesn't make mistakes. From the womb, he has known me, and our children. God knows what he's doing. My parents were sovereignly used to make me into who God desires me to be. I believe this now, although the voice still sometimes whispers doubts to me.

— Taken from the book *Mom to Mom: Moving from Unspoken Questions to Quiet Confidence*, by Elisa Morgan (Zondervan Publishing House, 1996).

## Tale of two continents

Sok T. Doeung accepted Christ because missionaries touched him in his time of greatest need. Now he's returning the favor on two continents. Doeung slipped out of his native Cambodia more than 20 years ago, landing in a Thailand refugee camp after a perilous escape by boat. Doeung's world changed when he heard about the love of Christ from Southern Baptist missionaries Dan Cobb and Ronald Hill, who worked in the refugee camp. Doeung eventually emigrated to Texas, but he continued to write to his family and friends in Cambodia to proclaim the love of Christ to them. Many of his family and friends were saved, and they started a house church in Cambodia. Back in Texas, he helped displaced Cambodians learn English, find jobs and schools, and locate a home church. Since the hardline rulers of Cambodia reopened the country in 1992, Doeung has taken several trips to his homeland — always with the gospel on his lips. He even baptized beloved family members who years before had accepted Christ because of his letters. "God is using Southern Baptists to reach out to all the different ethnic groups... I am glad to be a part of that family," he said.

## Helping our sons

With today's skewed image of male sexuality, it is crucial that parents talk openly with their sons and avoid the "silence of sexuality," according to a Christian researcher. Archibald Hart, dean of the graduate school of psychology at Fuller Seminary, said, "The son who is not able in the family to talk about sexuality is going to get his information — distorted information — from other sources. I'm not talking about sex education; I'm talking about sexuality," he pointed out. Hart authored *The Sexual Man: Masculinity Without Guilt*, for which he surveyed thousands of Christian men, age 17-70. Hart believes that early information — accurate or inaccurate — can play a part in sexual issues that arise throughout the rest of a man's life. He buttresses that contention by pointing to the survey, in which 75% of men said their instruction in sexuality as a young person was inadequate, and 70% of respondents said the information they did receive was not accurate. As succeeding generations of children reach puberty at ever younger ages, Hart said, parents' responsibility looms even larger. "The question parents must help their sons address is, 'How do I understand what's going on inside me?'"

## Looking Back...

### 10 years ago

A group of Mississippi Baptists that includes five health professionals and 13 Baptist Student Union members at Mississippi State University heads to the African nation of Burkina Faso to participate in an agricultural missions project.

### 20 years ago

Meridian native Georgia Mae Ogburn, Southern Baptist missionary to Chile for 36 years, is awarded that country's highest decoration to a foreigner for her "contributions to the moral, educational, and spiritual life of the Chilean people."

### 50 years ago

Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson announces a program to provide free medical care to residents of the Baptist Children's Village, the Methodist Orphanage, the Children's Home Society, the Old Ladies' Home, and the Old Men's Home.



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Is America tired of family values?

*Editor's note: The following editorial originally appeared in the February 4, 1993, issue of The Baptist Record.*

Churches, political parties, welfare workers, and school teachers have all used the term "family values" quite often. Are we talking about the same thing? Murphy Brown meant one thing; Dan Quayle, another.

The lifestyle of Hollywood is portrayed as the "norm" for America. The "anything goes" mentality regarding sexuality, violence, and prime time entertainment brings forth predictable results.

A reporter recently wrote that she was "tired" of hearing about family values and urged her readers to move on to things more meaningful.

There are more causes in the decline of family values than just Hollywood, but it is the most visible cause.

Recently, *Newsweek* carried the results of a survey of 104 top television writers and executives. It revealed that their attitudes toward morality and religion aren't shared by viewers across America. The survey also revealed

that 49% of Hollywood groups said adultery is wrong, while 85% of mainstream Americans say it is wrong.

In Hollywood, 45% have no religious affiliation, compared with 4% of Americans who say the same. Only 20% of the Hollywood writers/executives say homosexual acts are wrong, compared with 76% nationwide. On the issue of abortion, 97% believe in a woman's right to an abortion; 59% in the rest of the nation reflected this belief. This gap in opinion accounts for the slant on family issues from Out West.

God is the best authority on family life, and has revealed his will for the family. The Bible is a great marriage manual — the institution of the family begins in Genesis. Through the Old Testament we find a high regard for family values — loyalty, discipline, moral teaching, and accountability. Marriage is seen as a sacred union and a commitment, children are gifts from the Lord, and honoring parents, care for the elderly, and respect for your neighbors are all taught therein.

James Dobson, of Focus on the Family ministry, has compiled a

profile of the 21st century family as seen by *Time* magazine and other sources. The family as we know it will die. *Time* claims the family will have been nothing more than "a mere blip in human history." Multiple marriages or "serial monogamy" will replace the nuclear family. "Sunset clauses" will be in many marriage contracts, allowing the marriages to automatically terminate at a given time.

Many women will live with other women in "Golden Girls" type situations. Children will be passed around among relatives, and incest will no longer be taboo.

Many homeless boys and girls will roam our streets, and will be increasingly victimized.

Such is the secular world's vision for the coming century.

The Christian home and the church stand in direct opposition to such New Age philosophy. Biblical teaching and righteous living by parents will be the major bulwark against the apocalyptic predictions spelled out by *Time* and Hollywood. There has always been a remnant, but we would do well to emphasize family values today.

## Go tell Mommy...

### A tribute to those who meet needs

By J. Clark Hensley

Hundreds of students of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth knew that T.B. Maston, long-time ethics professor, affectionately called his wife "Mommy."

At age 87 he spoke at Texas Christian Life Commission seminar in Fort Worth. At the conclusion of his message, he was given a long standing ovation, to which he responded, "Thank you very much. I'll go tell Mommy." Mommy would appreciate and rejoice in the affirmation and expression of love he received from so many.

We all need significant relationships. We need someone to "tell it to" — our joys, successes, victories, defeats, griefs, failures, or when we feel misused or abused.

"Mommy, Mommy, where are you?" the youngster calls upon returning from school or play. He feels disappointed, let down, if she is out of place. He may want to share something, receive permission to go somewhere, or more probably he wants something to eat — but he needs Mommy.

"I'll go tell Mommy" describes a relationship of many facets.

Whether married or single, we all need a few significant others who will rejoice with us, weep with us, pray with us, listen to us, and share with us. To be sure, these "mommies," whether male or female, do not take the place of God, but his grace is mediated to us through other human beings. We may receive his grace through prayer, Bible reading or study, meditation, worship, hymn-singing, and devotional reading, but as soon as we mention the last two, we are naming human relationships — hymn writers, composers, poets, or authors.

"I'll go tell Mommy" means there is at least one who will have a listening ear, an affirming word of rejoicing, a cheering word of hope, or a comforting word in disappointment, failure, or sorrow.

"I'll go tell Mommy" may be a prelude to "to whom shall I go but to the Lord?" Or it may be a postlude, "Thank you, Lord, for this experience," or it may be an opportunity for a mutual praise and prayer time.

While serving as a social worker at the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson, Annette Hitt was tak-

ing a group of eight preschoolers to get some ice cream. As they were riding, they began to talk about what they would do if they were all one family. A bigger car and a big house were among the suggestions of need.

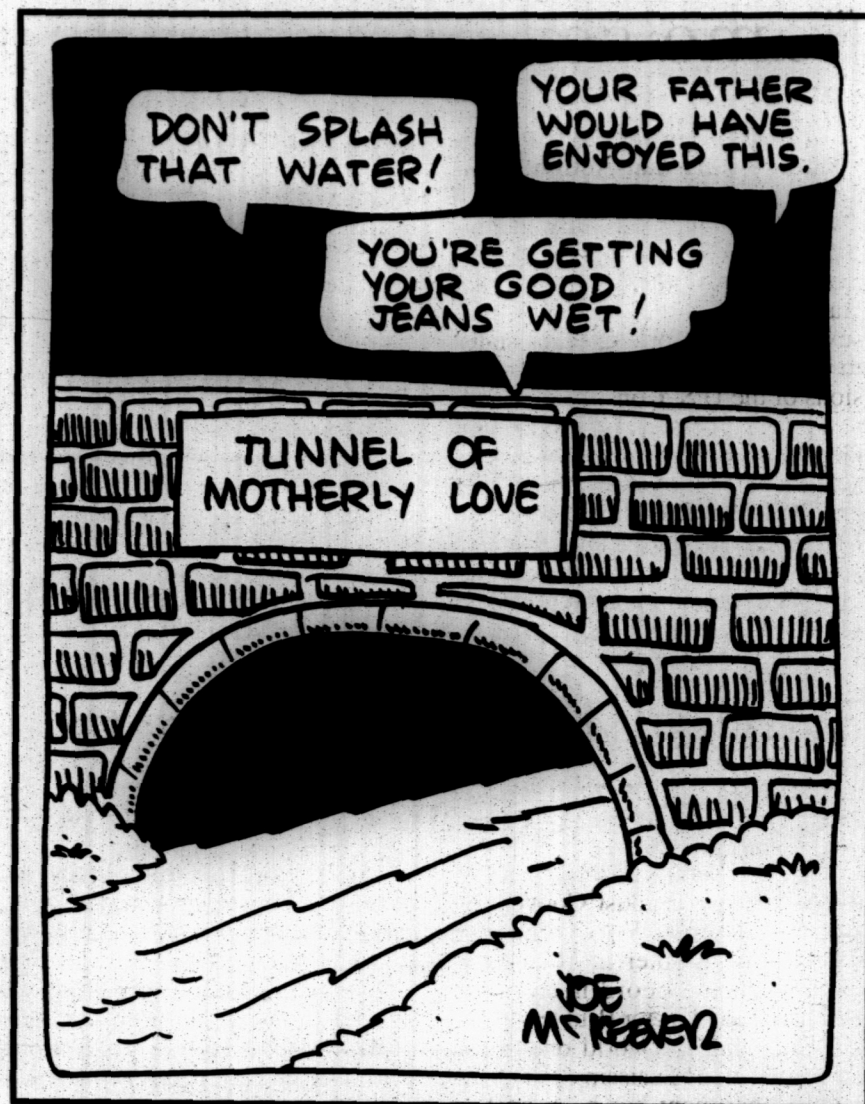
A curly-headed, blue-eyed blond was the only girl in the group. She turned her face toward Annette and asked, "Are you my mommy?"

Annette prayed for the right answer and replied, "I do a lot of mommy things for you. I take you places, teach you Bible stories, and do a number of other things. I love you, but I am not your real mother, like the one who comes to visit you on the weekend and sometimes is able to take you with her for a visit."

The little girl turned her face away and appeared to be in deep thought. Then, turning back to Annette, she said, "In God's own way, you are my mommy!"

Each of us may be privileged to have the experience "in God's own way" of meeting some need of another whose heart cries out, "I'll go tell Mommy!"

If you wear a red flower on



## THE FRAGMENTS

### Welcome home, Momma

*Editor's note: The following "Fragment" originally appeared in the June 25, 1992, issue of The Baptist Record.*

She was born in 1901 — when McKinley was president, the Wright Brothers had yet to fly, and it would be several years before Henry Ford produced a real automobile.

Her home was Lorena, between Raleigh and Forest. She never traveled more than several hundred miles from Lorena, although her children and grandchildren circled the globe. She finished the third grade for her formal education.

She needed glasses at an early age. Her father bought them from a traveling "drummer." She looked through a dozen pairs before she found glasses through which she could see. The price for the spectacles was \$10, so her father paid the drummer five silver dollars, several chickens, and

let him spend the night. That was in 1909.

She married in 1916 and with \$29 she and her husband set up housekeeping in a "shotgun" house. Eleven children were born to them — eight are still living. There are also 28 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

She took pride in crocheting an afghan (which she persisted in calling an "african") for each grandchild and great-grandchild.

In her latter years, people called her "Granny." She never knew the meaning of cholesterol, the European Common Market, nor Wall Street. She did know about sassafras tea, home medical remedies, and could butcher a hog or bake a five-layer cake for a sick neighbor. She didn't know theology from archeology, but she knew the Savior. This editor was proud to call her "Momma." She went home last Sunday.

— GH

Mother's Day, let it represent some special way you have expressed your love for your mother. If you wear a white flower in memory of your mother, maybe you can find some way to honor that memory by doing something special for a surrogate mother, daughter-in-law,

granddaughter, grandmother, or some mother in a nursing home or your church. Yes, in God's own way, go tell Mommy.

Hensley is retired executive director, Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention. He lives in Clinton.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 120 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 14  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor.....Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey  
Layout/Advertising.....Shannon T. Simpson  
Proofreader.....Betty Smith  
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Billie Buckley, Petal; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Bill Hardin, Ripley; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula; Carl White, Clarksdale; Betty Smith, secretary.

Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800.



# Same-sex unions possible in Mississippi without legislation

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission (CAC) on May 3 joined a chorus of state pro-family groups calling for a special legislative session to address the possibility that Hawaii may soon sanction same-sex marriages, forcing other states to accept the unions under provisions of the U.S. Constitution.

A spokesperson for Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice, who has sole responsibility for calling special legislative sessions, reported May 6 that the governor believes a special session would be "premature" until litigation on the matter is settled in the Hawaii court system.

"The governor does feel preser-

vation of the traditional family is very important. He supported the bills that died in committees (during the regular 1996 legislative session) that would have prohibited same-sex marriages," said Johnna Van, the governor's communications director.

Paul Jones, CAC executive director, said he doesn't feel a special session would be premature.

"Dealing now with this issue by legislative statute will present a stronger defense in court than if we address it after the fact — when we have same-sex couples flying to Hawaii, getting married, and then returning to Mississippi to demand recognition.

"Furthermore, we believe Mississippians are offended that inaction by the legislature in the regular session allowed two bills to die that would have dealt with this issue. We believe Mississippians are willing to pay for a short special session that will allow the state to control same-sex marriages," Jones said.

Jones said the governor should be encouraged to call the special session, and state residents should let their local legislators know how strongly they support action on this issue.

"We must be proactive. We cannot sit idly by and allow enemies of the family to define the future of the family unit," he said.

The governor can be contacted at P.O. Box 139, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 359-3100.

For more information or to obtain the name and address of a local legislator, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

## The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Published Since 1877

### World Changers projects set for Vicksburg, Natchez

The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will host World Changer weeks this summer in Vicksburg and Natchez, according to state Brotherhood Director Paul Harrell.

"Changing the world one house at a time, the Mississippi Brotherhood Department has been host to four World Changers projects since 1993 involving 806 young people from across the Southern Baptist Convention," Harrell said.

The focus of World Changers projects is spiritual enrichment and hands-on missions experience for young people from across the Southern Baptist Convention.

The first World Changers week will take place in Vicksburg on June 15-22. A total of 208 youths have registered for the Vicksburg project.

The second World Changers week is scheduled for Natchez on July 13-20, with 420 young people registered.

Workers at each World Changers project will provide repair services for approximately 25 houses selected from among low income applicants by the local Baptist association and the host city.

"Most of these houses would continue to deteriorate without the help of World Changers groups providing this much-needed assistance," said Harrell.

Because of the age and condition of the houses, much of the repair — including windows and doors — is custom work.

"It is therefore our desire to develop a construction trailer with appropriate equipment to be used by World Changers groups and our Construction Fellowship in other mission projects. We need the help of Mississippi Baptists in securing the trailer and the equipment," Harrell said.

Equipment needs for the new construction trailer include:

- 5'x8' enclosed tandem-axle trailer.
- 10" table saw.
- set of dado blades to match table saw.
- 10" radial arm saw.
- commercial-style router with stand.

- set of carbide router bits.
- 1,800-psi pressure washer.
- 5HP air compressor.
- framing, finish, and coil roofing nailers.

- hand tools, circular saw, drill, hammers, plane, etc.

Local church Brotherhood units may consider this as one of their projects, Harrell said.

"There are occasions when a wood-working husband has deceased and his widow desires to give his wood working equipment to a mission cause," Harrell pointed out.

For more information or to provide a donation, contact the Brotherhood Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

**WORLD CHANGERS**

*Southern Baptists Making A Difference*

### Nobles given 7-year term for taking MC donations

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Former Mississippi College (MC) president Lewis Nobles was sentenced May 2 in Jackson to more than seven years in federal prison after he admitted to stealing over \$2.8 million in donations intended for the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton.

"There's no question about acceptance of responsibility," the 70-year-old Nobles said in a loud, strong voice as he stood before U.S. District Judge William Barbour.

Acting on Nobles' Jan. 17 guilty plea to five counts of a 20-count federal indictment that included charges of wire fraud, mail fraud, money laundering, and income tax evasion, Barbour imposed prison terms for each count and then ordered that the terms run concurrently.

Nobles will in effect serve a sentence of seven years and three months, with automatic credit for the year and three months he was held in federal custody without bail. Federal law does not provide for parole.

Barbour also ruled that Nobles is unable to pay a fine or additional restitution. As part of his plea bargain, Nobles had previously surrendered to MC nearly \$500,000 in assets.

Nobles' Oxford-based attorneys, Grady Tollison and Amy

Whitten, cited their client's health problems and positive community contributions in asking Barbour to consider the "whole person" when imposing sentence.

"Any sentence Dr. Nobles receives is a life sentence," Whitten said.

After submitting a stack of letters more than an inch thick from people supporting and commending Nobles, his attorneys called a single witness to testify on his behalf.

Clinton attorney Johnnie Ruth Hudson told the court that she had worked for Nobles in a number of capacities during his 25 years as MC president.

She credited Nobles with overseeing a doubling of the college's enrollment in both undergraduate and graduate studies; building the school's endowment to unprecedented levels; starting the MC law and nursing programs; and actively lobbying the Mississippi Legislature on matters affecting private colleges in the state.

Nobles, speaking briefly on his own behalf before the court, said

he hoped to once again become a contributing member of his community, and he became emotional as he thanked his family "for staying with me."

Barbour told Nobles that his age, health, and family and community ties were "not relevant" to his sentencing.

Describing Nobles as a "high-level thief," Barbour said his supporters "need to understand that you were not what you purported to be."

The judge also quoted Proverbs 22:1 (NIV) — "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

"I assume you know more about that than anyone in this room," Barbour said.

U.S. Marshals returned Nobles to the Madison County Jail, where he has been held while awaiting final disposition of the criminal case against him.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons is expected to assign Nobles to a federal prison within the next few weeks.

Nobles faces a number of civil lawsuits filed against him by MC. At least one attorney who has represented the college in the civil litigation was present at the sentencing.



Nobles

### State CP gifts increase 10%

Four months into 1996, Mississippi Baptists have given nearly \$8.5 million through the Cooperative Program, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which distributes the funds.

The total for January-April is \$8,478,980 — which is \$782,279, or 10.16% more than that given in the same period of 1995.

April giving was \$2,233,610, which is \$603,757 more than the amount given in April of 1995.

Compared to the actual 1996 budget of \$23,280,984, giving is \$718,652 ahead of the pro rata amount needed in the first four months.

Cooperative Program funds go to support such programs as the recent state Bible Drills, the upcoming Preaching/Worship Conference, May 13-14, in Tupelo; and the Special Ministry Retreat, May 17-18, at Camp Garaywa.

### SBC CP shows April increase

NASHVILLE (BP). — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program (CP) gifts for the month of April were up 3.66% over a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The total for April, \$13,117,325, was \$463,400 more than the \$12,653,924 for April 1995. For the SBC fiscal year to date, October-April, the 1995-96 total of \$86,089,231 compares to the 1994-95 total of \$86,330,877, a 28% or \$241,645 decrease.

In designated gifts, the April 1996 total of \$9,449,413 was 10.51% below April 1995 of \$10,559,299 but for the year to date designated gifts still were up \$4 million ahead of the previous year. Year-to-date totals, \$96,536,903, compared to the previous year to date, \$92,554,642, for an increase of \$3,982,261 or 4.3%.

For the SBC CP Allocation Budget, the \$13.1 million for April was \$1.5 million more than the required monthly budget of \$11.6, or 11.14% above. For the seven months of the SBC fiscal year, the \$86 million in CP receipts is \$3.5 million above the budget amount required at this date of \$82.6 million, or a 4.2% increase.



## RTVC trustees elect officers, name incorporators for year

IRVING, Texas (BP) — Trustees of the Radio and Television Commission named two incorporators to assist the board of trustees of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) during a regularly scheduled meeting April 15-16 in the Sheraton Grand Hotel at Irving, Texas.

The trustees also passed a resolution supporting the Home Mission Board "Celebrate Jesus 2000" emphasis and elected officers for the 1996-97 fiscal year.

The two trustees named as incorporators are Ray Finch of

Catoosa, Okla., and Gary Underwood of Texarkana, Ark.

The ITF requested the RTVC nominate as incorporators two of its trustees who will be eligible to serve as trustees of the NAMB.

RTVC trustees re-elected C. Wyman Copass as chairman, Finch as first vice chairman and Billy Thomas as second vice chairman. Stephen Diehl was elected as recording secretary.

Trustees also honored D.J. Benson, pastor of Salem Heights Church, Laurel, who retired from the board.

Attending a recent "Start Something New in African-American Communities" workshop at the Baptist Building in Jackson were Verna (left) and Tom Burris (second from left) of the Hospice of Central Mississippi in Brookhaven, and Richard Brogan (center) of the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Directing the workshop were Ken Weathersby (second from right), director of African-American church extension for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville, and Michael Thurman (right), associate in black church extension of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



## Associational Missions Week May 20-26

*Southern Baptist Home Mission Board*

*Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department*

*Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*

## Saluting Mississippi's Associational Directors of Missions



Dale Little  
Adams/Union



Ed Gandy  
Alcorn



Bobby Waggoner  
Attala



Bill McCreary  
Benton-Tippah



Doyle Cummings  
Bolivar



Wayne Gullett  
Calhoun



Ron Ballard  
Carroll/Mont.



Danny Bryant  
Chickasaw



Bill Hales  
Choctaw



Grady Crowell  
Clarke



Bill Duncan  
Clay/Lown/Ok.



Talmadge Smith  
Copiah/Lin.



Leon Emery  
Franklin



John Henry  
George/Greene



Bobby Perry  
Gulf Coast



Jerald Welch  
Hol./Humph.



Howard Curbow  
Itawamba



Ernest Sadler  
Jackson



David Abbott  
Jasper



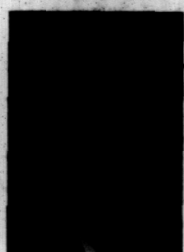
Allan Nix  
Jones



Paul Oglesbee  
Kemper



Don Stanfill  
Laf./Marshall



Doug Benedict  
Lamar



Wayne Edwards  
Lauderdale



Archie Herrin  
Law/Mar/Wal.



George Berger  
Lebanon



Eddie Hamilton  
Metro



Jim Harrington  
Monroe



Leo Barker  
Neshoba



John Sharp  
Newton/Scott



T. Scarborough  
North Central



M.C. Johnson  
North Delta



John Perkins  
Northwest



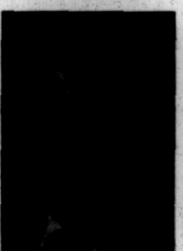
Walter Ballard  
Panola



Ken Rhodes  
Pearl River



Gary Fuller  
Pike



George Steward  
Pontotoc



J.C. Prather  
Prentiss



Allen Stephens  
Rankin



Farris Smith  
Simpson



Scott Walters  
Smith



W.D. Kirk  
Sunflower



Roger Dorsett  
Tishomingo



Roy Raddin  
Washington



Lynn Mackey  
Wayne



James Bryant  
Webster



Paul Blanchard  
Winston



Hollis Bryant  
Yalobusha

### Not pictured

Cov./Jeff Davis: Ken Stringer  
Leake: Joe Abel  
Lee: Bill Smith  
New Choctaw: Arthur Ben  
Union County: Marvin Cox  
Warren/Yazoo: Howard Smith



# Brotherhood trustees discuss restructuring with ITF rep

MEMPHIS (BP) — Brotherhood Commission trustees expressed concerns about the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) restructuring plan at their April 26-27 meeting before approving the use of "incorporators" to establish a new missions agency.

They also made transition plans and participated in a reunion with former trustees.

In their biannual session in Memphis, trustees reported their concerns to Mike Hamlet, a member of the Implementation Task Force (ITF) appointed by the SBC Executive Committee to oversee the "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring.

Approved by messengers at last year's SBC meeting in Atlanta, the restructuring calls for dissolving the Home Mission Board (HMB), the Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), and assigning their duties

to a newly created North American Mission Board (NAMB).

The incorporators, as proposed by the ITF, would help establish the NAMB, nominate a president, and propose officers for the agency's board of directors.

Hamlet, pastor of First Church, North Spartanburg, S.C., answered questions of both trustees and 28 former trustees. He is one of two members of the task force assigned to the commission.

Several questions centered around the appointment of the 13 incorporators, which includes two incorporators from each of the three agencies forming the NAMB and seven appointed by the ITF.

Trustee Bill Prince of Georgia asked Hamlet about the objectivity of the incorporators, since more than half will be appointed by the ITF.

"There's an appearance the incorporators could lack objectivity because a majority of them are

appointed by the ITF and arguably influenced by the Executive Committee and its CEO, so it might not actually reflect the will of the convention, but the Executive Committee," Prince said.

Hamlet responded that if more agency representatives were incorporators, they might form voting blocks. "We felt this was somewhere in the middle... because then you're getting people on that committee who understand a new entity that is for all Southern Baptists. We've not had any input from the Executive Committee except what we've taken to them." He noted a majority of ITF's 10 members are not Executive Committee members.

James McCollough of California asked if criteria existed for those appointed to entities. "Are they going to drop the barriers and let anyone who has been nominated (to be selected) or is there going to be a hidden agenda?"

"There is no hidden agenda," Hamlet said. If the incorporators make decisions based on 7-6 votes representing a division between those appointed by the agencies and those appointed by the ITF, those decisions, Hamlet predicted, would not be accepted by Southern Baptists.

Paul Schlett of New York questioned the proposed makeup of the NAMB board, which will be composed of all of the second-term trustees of the three entities or about 44 trustees of the HMB, 15 of the Brotherhood Commission, and 15 of the RTVC.

Schlett said in pioneer areas like his state, laymen are not "empowered" as well as laymen in more evangelized states because many pastors are linked more strongly to the HMB's work than to Brotherhood work. This is natural because many of them are paid by the HMB, he explained.

Hamlet responded to this and several other questions about trustee representation of the three entities forming the NAMB. "Our task is not to be protective and I believe this is the way you want it to be. It's not to be protective of an entity; it is to be protective of that entity's ministry." He added, "There never has been the idea that this (Brotherhood work) has not worked."

Several trustees expressed concern that the restructuring would cause current increases in Brotherhood work to falter. They referred to a 15.9 percent increase in enrollment and participation totaling 749,000 in Brotherhood programs. One trustee questioned how World Changers, which needs a two- to three-year planning period, could be transferred without interruption.

Williams said the staff would continue its work until June 19, 1997, when the transition would be completed, or until told otherwise.

Several trustees expressed their pain at not being asked for their input and asked if those with experience in Brotherhood work would be considered for the six at-large incorporator positions.

Thursday, May 9, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



## Baptists to aid N. Korea

North Korean officials have asked Southern Baptists to help feed a flood-ravaged city for the next six months. "We were asked to help from now until October in the rescue of a city. We would supply one meal a day to about 50,000 people," said Bill Cashion, a member of a team sent in April by Cooperative Services International (CSI). CSI is a Southern Baptist overseas relief and development organization. The six-member team included representatives from CSI, the Southern Baptist WMU women's organization and men's Brotherhood Commission. North Korean officials appealed to the team to provide food to one of any number of cities or villages in the nation's disaster area. Food shortages in flood-stricken areas have affected up to 5 million North Koreans. "This is one of the highest priorities for Southern Baptist relief work," Cashion said. "From what we saw, literally thousands of people will starve this winter without our help. God has given us a wonderful opportunity to help others in the name of Christ." Contributions to the North Korea relief project may be sent to CSI, P.O. Box 6841, Richmond, VA 23230; to the WMU Vision Fund, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242-4352; or to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

## Methodists oppose homosexuality, change statement on baptism

DENVER (ABP) — The United Methodist Church has turned back a strong effort to soften the church's opposition to homosexuality and decided that infants should become church members at baptism rather than when they make a profession of faith.

Delegates to the church's general conference in April rejected a proposal to replace an assertion in church law declaring homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching" with a statement that United Methodists are "unable to arrive at a common mind" on the subject.

Delegates voted 577-378 against the new language. Four years earlier, the church voted to retain the "incompatible" language by a margin of 710-238.

Delegates also refused 598-304 to approve of same-sex marriages and rejected a proposal that would have allowed church funding of organizations that "promote"

homosexuality.

With 8.5 million members, the United Methodist Church is the second-largest Protestant body in the United States. Only the 15.6 million-member Southern Baptist Convention is larger.

The baptism change moves the United Methodist Church closer to Lutheran, Episcopal, and Catholic churches and away from evangelicals like Baptists, who stress "believer's baptism" as a prerequisite for church membership.

In a speech by Hillary Rodham Clinton, the First Lady described the profound impact that growing up a Methodist had on her life and urged the denomination to continue its social witness on behalf of the world's children.

Earlier, delegates voted not to invite Elizabeth Dole, wife of Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, to the conference but held a prayer for both the Clintons and the Doles.

### Evangelists' Profile

This space is dedicated to Mississippi men and women who have committed themselves to vocational evangelism. Churches are encouraged to take advantage of their talents in helping to reap the harvest.

#### This week's evangelist

Jimmy Knight  
Laurel

Years in Ministry: 26

Education: Clarke College, William Carey College, Luther Rice Seminary

Places of service: 16 states, 7 foreign countries

Focal ministry: Revival preaching and/or music;

Volunteer mission team coordinator

Personal: Currently president of the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists; wife Anne and son Jamie take part in this ministry





## New Orleans SBC-Related Meetings and Events Louisiana Superdome — June 11-13

### Fred Powell to be nominated for first v.p.

AURORA, Colo. (BP) — Fred Powell, president of Communicators Ministries, Richmond, Mo., will be nominated for first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to an announcement by Jerry Johnson, pastor of Central Church, Aurora, Colorado.

Election of SBC officers begins during the first day of the June 11-13 annual meeting in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

Powell has served for several months as special assistant for transition to new Midwestern Seminary President Mark Copenhaver, and Powell is director of development for Emmanuel Seminary, Oradea, Romania.

He was chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business from 1992-95 and senior associate pastor of First Church, Atlanta, from 1984-90.

No other nominees have been announced for SBC first vice president.

### Miss. DOM will speak to meeting of association

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "Resourcing the Association" will be the theme of the June 9-10 meeting of the Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at the Radisson Hotel in New Orleans.

This year's meeting precedes the SBC's June 11-13 annual meeting in New Orleans.

Among the speakers giving theme testimonies will be John L. Brackin, director of missions for the Catalina Association, Tucson, Ariz.

The conference's special music will be presented by Dale Little of Natchez, director of missions for the Union and Adams associations.

The SBC Annuity Board is the traditional host of the conference's Sunday evening banquet and Monday luncheon.

The conference's incoming president is Larry L. Rose, director of missions of the Tarrant Association, Fort Worth.

### Research Fellowship

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Research Fellowship's annual meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at New Orleans Seminary's Leavell-Center for Evangelism and Church Growth.

The fellowship's banquet and evening program will begin at 6:30 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

### Computer association

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "On the Cutting Edge with SBC" will be the theme of this year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association.

The June 7-8 meeting will be at New Orleans Seminary's Leavell-Center for Evangelism and Church Growth. Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. each day.

### SBTS luncheon

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Southern Seminary's annual Alumni and Friends Luncheon will be held Wednesday, June 12, at 1 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans.

### Golden Gate alums

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Golden Gate Seminary will host its alumni and friends luncheon Wednesday, June 12, in New Orleans following the morning session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

### NOBTS reunion

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary's annual Alumni & Friends Reunion will be held on the seminary campus beginning at noon Wednesday, June 12, during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

### Midwestern luncheon

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Two distinguished alumni awards and two honorary alumni awards will be presented during Midwestern Seminary's annual alumni luncheon at noon Wednesday, June 12, in the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans.

### SWBTS luncheon

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Four Southwesterners have been chosen to receive the 1996 distinguished alumni award and will be recognized at the annual national alumni

luncheon June 12 during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

The luncheon will take place in the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, immediately following the Wednesday morning session. The hotel is directly south of the Louisiana Superdome.

### BWA breakfast

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Baptist World Alliance's "Window on the World" breakfast at the Southern Baptist Convention will be at 7 a.m. Wednesday, June 12, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans.

### SEBTS luncheon

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Alumni and friends of Southeastern Seminary will enjoy the cuisine that has made Louisiana dining famous at the school's national alumni luncheon during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. The luncheon, to be held Wednesday, June 12, at the Hyatt Regency across from the Superdome, will feature an address by

Southeastern President Paige Patterson, who is beginning his fifth year as president of the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary.

Patterson also will bring a report on the school's mission trip to Cambodia, which will take place June 2-18.

### Georgia pastor reappointed chief SBC parliamentarian

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A Georgia pastor who is a certified parliamentarian has been reappointed chief parliamentarian for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 11-13 in New Orleans, according to SBC President Jim Henry.

Henry also has named the same parliamentarians who were part of a six-member team during the SBC annual meeting last year in Atlanta.

The chief parliamentarian, Lester L. Cooper Jr., is pastor of Valley Hill Church, Riverdale, Ga.

Cooper has served on the Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee in various capacities and has been a parliamentarian for the state convention.

He is certified by the American Institute of Parliamentarians and has been president of the Georgia Association of Parliamentarians/Atlanta Unit as well as director of the Georgia Association of Parliamentarians' Educational Institute, and chairman of the association's education committee. He is also coauthor of **Parliamentary Procedure for the People**.

The other parliamentarians reappointed by Henry are John Sullivan, Jacksonville, Fla., executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention; Sanford W. Peterson, Utica, N.Y., a corporate communications consultant firm owner; Jimmy E. Jackson, Huntsville, Ala., pastor of Whitesburg Church; David N. Matlock, Caddo Parish, La., juvenile court judge; and Joe Reynolds, a Houston attorney.

### MKs seek to fill unmet needs

Missionary kids (MKs) — for the most part — enjoy the best of two worlds. Steeped in the culture and language of the country where their parents serve, they also reap the benefits of travel and visits to the United States.

Most thrive on all this exposure. However, they can experience hang-ups, homesickness, and problems with things as simple as:

- the casual way of life in America;
- the mobility of Americans;
- the inability to operate a water fountain;
- the "slot-machine" approach to sodas and candy;
- all the relatives they don't know;
- homesickness for friends and cultural events.

It can help to talk with other MKs and people who have had the same difficulties. MKs may have been denied needed fellowship and the needed touch with "home base."

The International MK Fellowship, Inc., decided to do something about these unmet needs. As a result, "Mission Meeting '96" will take place July 26-31 in Hawaii.

Steve Solesbee, MK from the Philippines, now of Dallas, is spearheading the effort to locate thousands of MKs around the world and bring them together for this unique event. The five-day conference will feature inspirational speaking, singing, break-out sessions, and time for fun and fellowship.

The Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, is handling registration for the meeting. For more information, call (800) 419-0561.

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0679  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415



### Your Church Cannot Be Destroyed — Your Church Building Can!

The spirit of your Church  
cannot be destroyed.  
But your Church building can!  
Protect it with  
the Church specialists...

Bob Ford  
Andy Moak — Ken Shearer  
Boyles Moak & Brickell Ins.  
P.O. Box 14247  
Jackson, MS 39236  
(601) 982-4700

**PREFERRED RISK MUTUAL  
INSURANCE COMPANY**  
A Member of PREFERRED RISK GROUP  
West Des Moines, Iowa  
America's Nondrinkers Insurance Company!  
"Endorsed By Annuity Board of  
Southern Baptist Convention"

### Church Buses Rental Buses (New and Used)

•We buy used buses  
•Guaranteed buy-back program  
Call Henry Headden  
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.  
Brentwood, Tenn.  
1-(800)-370-6180  
1-(615)-371-6180

Available in 20 ft. to 33 ft. models  
(12 to 38 Passenger)



### LOONEY'S Tavern

Amphitheater & Park

### "The Aftermath and the Legacy" CIVIL WAR DRAMA

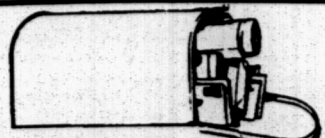
June 13 through October 12, 1996

This story follows the principle figures of the historic meeting at Looney's Tavern throughout the conflict and ends with the signing of the peace agreement at Appomattox. It is the story of young love and decisions; to leave home, to escape to the mountain caves, to join the Armies, to fight against neighbor and brother.

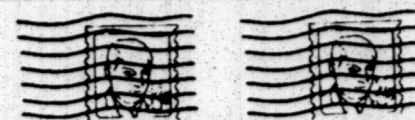
Dual Destiny 1861-1864, a unique indoor Civil War Musical Production.  
Looney's Riverboat-cruise Smith Lake • Looney Putt-miniature golf  
Sister Sara's Kitchen-Buffer Dining • Caroline's Gifts-a quaint shop

For detailed Ticket & Performance Information call:  
(205) 489-5000 • P.O. Box 70 • Double Springs, AL 35553





## Letters to the editor



### Craving "Egypt"

Editor:

Thank you for your editorial, "Still bound to Egypt" (April 11 issue). The "Egypt-craving" attitude you mentioned being in today's services seems to be trying to provide what makes lost people feel comfortable instead of that which could change their lives toward Christ. This is why I used the word "services" instead

of "worship." Too many times in our attempts to seek out lost people we look back to Egypt for techniques to interest them instead of looking forward to the promised land of a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. Thus, our "worship" services become just services, void of much true worship. That is when, as you said, the God-given manna becomes "blah," and the music and entertainment of Egypt are

thought to be the best.

When we start looking to what we can be through Christ instead of what we can do in the services; when we stop depending upon "feel-good" programs of other persuasions and begin following the example of Christ in going to the lost, witnessing to them, and bringing them in; then we can stop behaving like a group of elephants grabbing the tail of the one in front of us and following, and

instead, begin reaching out for direction from the powerful hand of Jesus as Peter did when he was sinking. Our services can still be true worship of our Holy God and our lives can follow the Example, Jesus Christ.

J.E. Sims, pastor  
Immanuel Church  
Columbus

### Fallen standards

Editor:

What is happening in our churches today? Is there a lack of "fear of the Lord" in our deacons? Over the years, the role of deacon in the church has become distorted. A deacon should be a proven mature Christian, faithful to the Lord, and dedicated to building up the Lord's church, not tearing it down. They should be spiritual leaders, faithful in attendance to Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday services and Sunday School and church training.

They should lead their families in the same path of faithfulness to their church. They should be peacemakers and go to the limit to keep harmony in the church. The deacon of the week teams should visit the sick and the hospitals. The word "deacon" means serving or of service to others. They should also attend monthly business meetings.

Frances Hicks, Susie Lambert  
Canton

### Tribute to Mom

Editor:

I would like to respectfully submit the enclosed tribute to my mother, Dolores McGowen. A tiny woman standing just 4'9" tall, she bore nine children and was (and is) one of the best mothers God ever placed on earth. She sacrificed tremendously for her children and faithfully carried us to Sunday School, worship services, BTU (as it used to be called), and prayer meeting. All nine of us became Christians as a result of her example. My father worked faithfully to support us as best he could financially, but the molding was Mama's.

She viewed being a mother her

"calling," and made it the number one priority in her life (although she did dozens of other things simultaneously). People used to comment that she could never sit still, she could stretch a dollar "until the eagle squawked," and make a meal for a crowd from a little of nothing. To say she was active is an understatement: she was still riding on her little Honda 90 motorcycle in her early 70's.

Always cheerful and happy, she instilled in us a great sense of humor and a love for life. What an amazing feat she accomplished in raising nine happy children who became nine happy adults! (She pooh-pooh's all this, saying "I just grew up with my children.")

Mama will be 81 on June 28, 1996. She has eight living children, 22 living grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. Until two years ago she was still living in the house she and my father built in the early 30's, and driving her little car wherever she needed to go.

Last year she represented Petal ConvaRest in the Mississippi "Ms. Nursing Home" pageant in Jackson. When I saw her there in her glittery blue gown, I couldn't help but marvel again at how God loves to surprise us. Back in July, 1994, I didn't think I would ever have another Mother's Day with my mother, but I have — I am looking forward to another one this year as Mama is doing so well.

Martie McGowen Best  
New Augusta

### Billy Graham Day

Editor:

I just want to make a suggestion. I suggest that every Baptist church in the State of Mississippi have a Billy Graham Sunday. Each church every Sunday pay honor to this great man of God.

I also suggest that the editor of **The Baptist Record** be appointed to set this Sunday.

Atwell Scott  
Coldwater

*Editor's note: Thanks for the vote but I suspect that Billy Graham would rather we pray for him each day.*

# People Sharing Jesus is now available. Are you?

Now you can make sharing Jesus part of your everyday life. Naturally. Effectively.

Simply. Sensitive. Right where you live, work, and play.

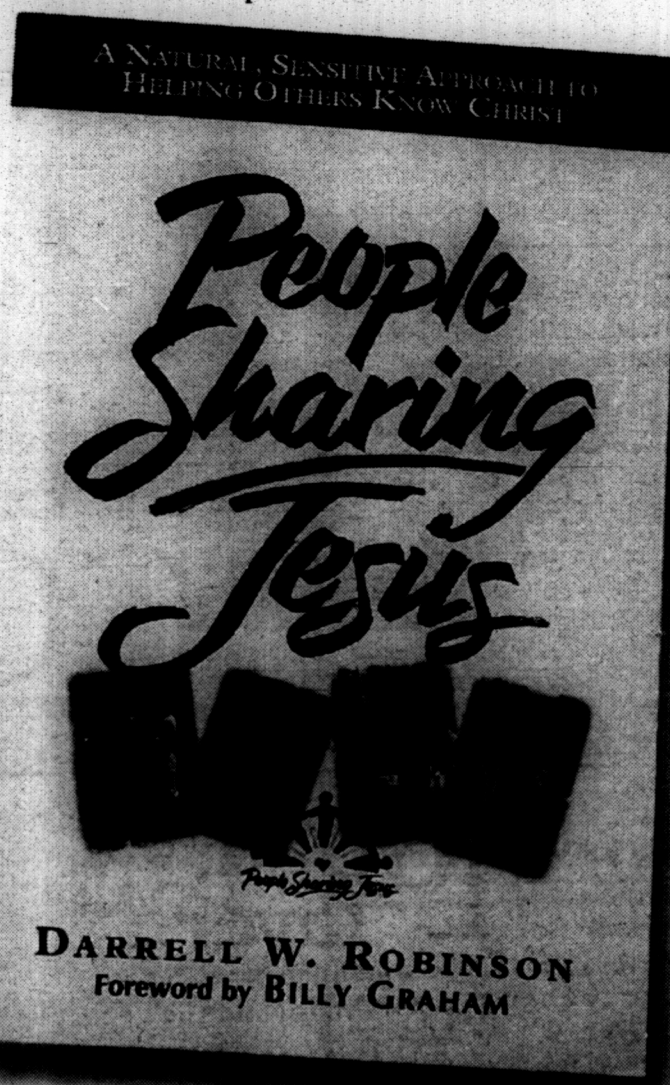
*People Sharing Jesus* is a breakthrough process by Darrell W. Robinson, head of evangelism for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1989.

*People Sharing Jesus* isn't about gimmicks or manipulation. It's about sharing the joy and faith you've found in Christ. Without guilt, anxiety, or awkwardness.

*People Sharing Jesus* is available at your local Christian bookstore in book form, abridged audio tapes, audio seminar, dramatized video, leader's guide, and special New Testament edition. It's everything you and your church need to build confidence, knowledge, and inspiration for sharing Christ. Just as your Father intended.



Available now at your local Baptist Book Store or any Christian bookstore.



**"Darrell Robinson, whose pastor's heart is clear and resounding, has expressed most helpfully in this book the basic features of a spontaneous witness for our living Lord. I recommend *People Sharing Jesus* to all who are experiencing God, and have an inner desire to bear witness to others."**

— Henry T. Blackaby, Author, *Experiencing God*

Are you paying too much for your Hospital or Medicare Supplement Insurance? If yes, call for our Low Rates Today!

#### ☐ Major Hospital & Surgical Plan

Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery, Ambulance.  
Many Pre-Existing Health Conditions acceptable —  
High blood pressure, Diabetes, Heart conditions, etc.  
(Excellent Rates on ages 50+)

#### ☐ Medicare Supplement

Ages 65 and over. No waiting periods.  
Low Rates!

#### ☐ Medicare Supplement under age 65

Call today for free information:

**E.F. Hutton Insurance Marketing**

111 Lakeshore Dr. #J-202, Brandon, MS 39042

**1-800-880-2305**

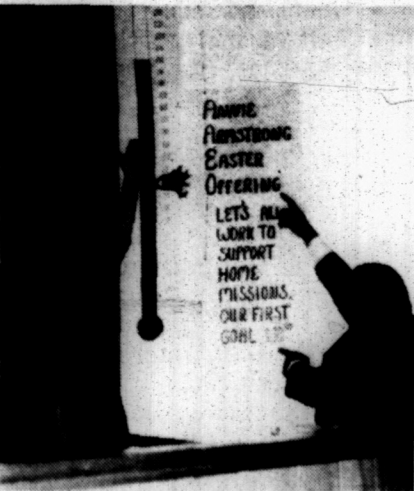




**First Church, Vardaman,** held ground breaking services following morning worship on March 3 for a fellowship/recreation/education building. Pictured from left are Dale Easley, pastor; Windell Lancaster, chairman of deacons; Annette Logan, Jim Blue, Ray Sutherland, Chick Martin, and Peggy Skinner, building committee. Not pictured were Jerry Hamilton and Zilla Spencer, committee members.



**A group from Carroll-Montgomery Association** traveled to Guatemala City on a mission trip. They completely restored a building on the grounds of the seminary. Pictured are Ron Ballard, Sue Ballard, Ken Gowan, Grace Gowan, Clint Tompkins, Judy Tompkins, Wilton Neal, Billy Joe Ferguson, Kenny Carver, Claver Blair, Charles Elliot, David Clark, and James Cox.



**Fifteen year old Lighthouse Church, Richland,** previously affiliated with The Missionary Baptist Association of Little Rock, Ark., and which became affiliated with Southern Baptists two years ago, set its first Annie Armstrong Home Mission offering goal at \$100 and by Easter Sunday morning the total offering received was \$253. Elnora Gilbert is WMU director; Clarence Gilbert is Brotherhood director. H. Cliff Davis, interim pastor, recently led the congregation in a Church Growth Adventure, which includes percentage mission giving to Rankin Association and world missions through the Cooperative Program. Attendance has increased 25% in three months.

(CSWE). The accreditation gives Mississippi College the only accredited social work program at a private institution in the state. "This is external validation of the quality of social work education at Mississippi College. Accreditation represents the culmination of more than six years of work within the Department of Sociology and Social Work, and we have long anticipated this," said Deborah Holt, assistant professor and director of the Social Work program.

**Old Pearl Valley Church** (Neshoba) exceeded its \$1,000 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions with a total gift of \$1,210. The church also set and achieved its \$500 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Donald Buckner is interim pastor.

**Swiftwater Church, Greenville,** exceeded its Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$1,000 with a total gift of \$1,030. The church also exceeded its \$1,500 Annie Armstrong Offering goal by giving \$1,710 to home missions.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — C. Ben Mitchell has been named a visiting professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Mitchell, 41, also will continue in his role as consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Christian Life Commission. He has served with the Nashville-based agency since 1992. Previously, he was a trustee of the agency. His appointment at Southern Seminary is effective Aug. 1.

**Mitchell holds the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University** at Starkville and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

**FORT WORTH (ABP) — More than 130 people in 25 states and Canada** professed faith in Jesus Christ as a result of revivals led during spring break by students at Southwestern Seminary. Officials at the seminary in Fort Worth report 82 students preached 551 sermons and made 890 personal visits to share the gospel message during the seminary's annual spring evangelism practicum, March 17-24. Total decisions, including spiritual commitments and personal callings to enter missions or church work, reached 510.

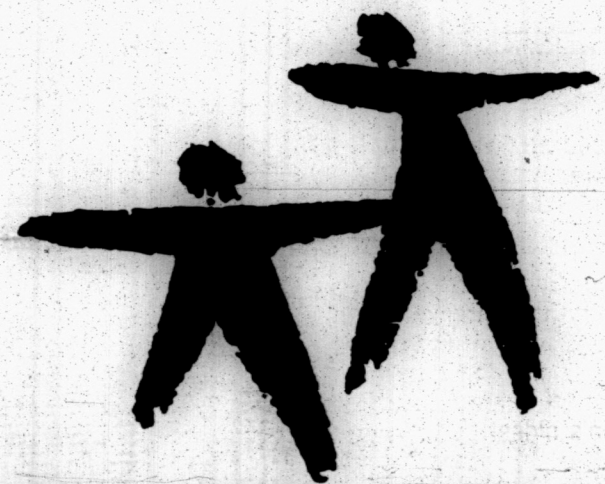
**William Carey College** in Hattiesburg will host the fifth annual **Creativity Exploration** July 22-24 (for grades two through six) and July 23-26 (for grades seven

through 12). Both events will begin at 9 a.m. on the school's Hattiesburg campus. For more information, contact Trudy Abel, P.O. Box 148, 498 Tuscan Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Telephone: (601) 582-6205.

**Mississippi College's Christian radio station, WHJT-FM,** has been awarded the "NRB Web Site Award" by the National Religious Broadcasters Association. The award is given to computer web sites that show creativity, content, and usefulness to their target audience.

**Faith Church, Fairbanks, Alaska,** is seeking a part-time bivocational music director. Send resume by June 30 c/o MSC, P.O. Box 80328, Fairbanks, AK 99708.

**The Santa Fe, N.M., Spanish Church** is in need of a full-time bilingual pastor. Send resumes to: P.O. Box 5959, Santa Fe, NM 87505, Attn: Pulpit search committee.



# PEOPLE COUNT

## Thanks for noticing.

Because of Southern Baptists like you, 4,857 home missionaries can share Christ's message that people are important.

Thank you for your gifts to the 1996 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Although this year's Easter celebration has passed, the spirit of Easter continues. It is never too late to make a sacrificial gift to home missions and to share Christ's love with those around us.

Pray for the work of home missions. Become aware of what home missions is doing in the lives of people around you because . . . people count.

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step. Call TriState Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622 BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

### CHURCH PEWS & FURNITURE CO.



★ Cushions ★ Baptistries  
★ Steeples ★ Renovation  
★ Pews and Pulpit Furniture  
(New and Used)

Wallace E. Foy

**WATTS 1-800-898-0551  
Jackson 957-3762**

### Exciting Career in Christian Retailing

Excellent salary and benefit package available. Qualifications must include: four-year college degree or comparable business experience, outstanding leadership, computer skills, strong vision for the future, and an active role in a Southern Baptist church.

Send resume to: **RETAIL STORE OPERATIONS DEPT.,  
ATTN: DAVID TILLER, 127 NINTH AVENUE, NORTH,  
NASHVILLE, TN 37234-0165**  
or fax to (615) 251-3622

**BAPTIST BOOK STORES  
LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN STORES**

owned and operated by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention



# Names in the News



**Temple Church, Big Point,** licensed **Greg Clark** (left) to the ministry on March 31. William Lance Hoggatt (right) is pastor.



**William Carey College students Leanne Bennett** (left), a junior Spanish and English major from Diamondhead and **Robin McGehee**, a senior communication major from Jackson, will represent Mississippi for the second time at the Interstate Oratorical Association National Tournament to be held at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln at the end of April. The tournament includes the top two collegiate speakers from every state and is the nation's oldest public speaking competition.

**Steeple & Baptistries**

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

Call or write for our free catalog

• Steeples • Krinkiglas • Windows • 800-525-2459  
• Baptistries • Lighted Wall • Baptistry • PO Box 1380  
• Crosses • Heaters • Henderson, TX 75653-1380

**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**

**HEAVEN'S GATES & HELL'S FLAMES**

**HELL'S FLAMES**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — **The Christian Life Commission** (CLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention will be strongly represented in Christian ethics classes at Southern Seminary. **Richard D. Land**, CLC president, has been named distinguished visiting professor of Christian ethics at the Louisville, Ky., seminary for the 1996-97 academic year. The April 18 announcement came two days after seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. had named C. Ben Mitchell, a consultant on biomedical and life issues for the CLC, as visiting professor of Christian ethics. Land will commute to



**Mt. Vernon Church, Mississippi Association,** presented **Burnyce Hughes** a plaque in appreciation for 30 years as custodian. Her children and friends gave her a reception at her home. Brian Hill is pastor.



**Lester Gardner and his wife Grace** were honored by Enon Church, Jasper Association, on March 17 for his six years of service as pastor and his 70th birthday with a surprise pot luck supper and pounding. He also received a suit, shirt, and tie.

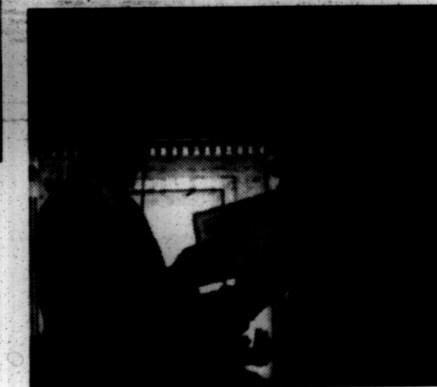
Louisville one day a week during the fall and spring semesters.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — **"The business of this seminary** is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and bring souls to heaven," declared **Adrian Rogers** at an April 21 community rally in a 1,200-seat tent pitched on the campus of Midwestern Seminary. The community rally was part of a weekend of activities held for the inauguration of Mark Coppenger, Midwestern Seminary's third president. A 24-hour prayer vigil also marked the weekend. The inaugural ceremony was held April 22 on Midwestern's Kansas City, Mo., campus and featured evangelical theologian Carl F.H. Henry.

**James R. Sellers, Cleveland,** has earned the diploma in pastoral ministries from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. The Institute is the correspondence arm of Seminary Extension, operated by the seminaries.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — **Diana R. Garland** has submitted her resignation from Southern Seminary's faculty, effective July 31. Garland has been a social work faculty member since 1983 and was dean of the seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work from 1993 until March 1995 when she was dismissed from the position by seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. in a dispute over the hiring of a new faculty member. Trustees have voted to close the school in May 1997.

**Westwood Church, Meridian,** recently licensed **Ernest Allen, Gilbert Eaves, and Jamie Roundtree** to the gospel ministry. In addition, six young men in the



**Oakvale Church, Lawrence County,** recently licensed **Joe Grayson** (left) to the gospel ministry. He is available for pulpit supply and can be reached at (601) 886-7068. Don Taylor (right) is pastor.



**ALL SIZES  
SALES AND RENTALS**



**Clyda Stokes Rent** (center), president of Mississippi University for Women, was the guest lecturer at the 1996 Carpenter Lecture in Sociology held recently at Mississippi College. Following the lecture **James Wooten** (left), professor and head of Sociology and Social Work, and **N.W. Carpenter** (right), retired professor and head of the Sociology Department met with Rent.



**Mississippi College students** elected a new slate of officers for the **Student Government Association** in a recent campus-wide election. The new officers elected to serve during the 1996-97 school session are (seated, from left) **Stephen Kennedy**, Laurel, president; **Walker Gibson**, Brandon, vice-president; and **Karen Yawn**, Columbia, secretary. **Standing (from left)** are **Stewart Lee**, Forest, treasurer; **Brett Causey**, Laurel, attorney; **Bill Farmer**, Clinton, Men's Affairs Board chairman; and **Melissa Ballard**, Brookhaven, Women's Affairs Board chairman.

church have felt the call to ministry: **Dustin Eaves, Matthew Eaves, Andrew Lee, Corey Fontan, David Hopkins, and Kevin Jackson.** Bill Webb is pastor; David Mitchell is former pastor.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP) — Baylor administrator **James Netherton** has been named provost of Samford University, replacing William Hull, Samford officials announced April 15. Netherton, currently Baylor's second-ranking administrator, will become Samford's chief academic

officer June 1. He will succeed Hull, who retires May 31 after nine years in the post.

**Pete Smith**, sports information director at Mississippi College, won first place in the Southeastern Journalism Conference's television documentary category for his television series, "Kid's View."



**Edwin Caldwell** (center) was honored with a plaque by Liberty Church, Nettleton, on March 31, for his dedicated service as church treasurer. Pictured with him are his wife **Murlee** and **Mike Brazeal**, Liberty Church pastor.

## Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames

A Dramatized Real Life Presentation  
You Will Never Forget!

Sunday-Wednesday,  
May 19-22, 7 p.m. Nightly

### Parkway Baptist Church

117 Seargent Prentiss Drive  
Natchez, MS 39120

Ticket (free) is required, available at the church office, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information call:  
(601) 442-7434

## CHURCH BUSES

#1 MANUFACTURER  
COMPETITIVE PRICING

### SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.

CLINTON, MS

1-800-423-9826

1-601-924-1982



## Carey commencement May 11 to bestow nearly 400 degrees

William Carey College will hold commencement at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 11, on the Baptist-affiliated school's Hattiesburg campus.

Commencement speaker will be Robin McGehee of Jackson, two-term president of the student government association and recipi-

ent of leadership and alumni awards.

The Symphonic Winds, under the direction of professor David W. Young, will perform, and a reception in Wilkes Cafeteria will follow the commencement.

For more information, contact the college at (601) 582-6192.

## Homecomings

**Mt. Gilead, Meridian:** May 19; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall; Buddy Petty, pastor, speaker; Randy Futral, minister of music, music.

**New Hope (Okibbeha):** May 12; 11 a.m.; Bob Brandon, speaker and pastor.

**Mount Moriah, Weir:** May 19; 10 a.m.; dinner on the grounds 12 noon; "Born Again," Kosciusko, music; James Young, Union, guest speaker; Dale Nowell, pastor.

**Center (Union):** May 19; Sunday School, 10 a.m., followed by worship service; J.P. Kirkland, former pastor, guest speaker; fellowship meal, noon; 1:30 p.m. singing service featuring Paid In Full, New Albany; Archie Goodwin Jr., pastor.

**Cornersville, Potts Camp:**

May 19; 10:30 a.m. worship; Philip Cooper, Dumas, guest speaker; noon covered dish dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing, 1 p.m., with Chosen Vessels of Memphis; no night service; Samuel L. Cox, pastor.

**First of Orange Grove, Pascagoula:** May 19; 11 a.m. worship; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall following worship; 1:30 p.m. singing; no night service; Sid L. Taylor, pastor.

**Bellevue, Thaxton:** May 19; 11 a.m. worship; Tommy Inmon, Thaxton, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1 p.m.; no night service; Lamar Pickens, pastor.

**Ebenezer (Attala):** May 26; Sammy Ray, guest speaker, morning service; dinner on the grounds following worship service; Chosen Ones, Booneville, guest musicians, afternoon singing; Harvey Overstreet, pastor.

## Revival Dates

**Coaltown, Purvis:** May 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry Watts, Biloxi, evangelist; David Townsend, pastor, music.

**Union, Tylertown:** May 12-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Perry Neal, Montgomery, Ala., evangelist; Bruce Pruitt, Union Church, music; Mike Sutton, pastor.

**Grace Memorial, Skyline:** May 19-22; 7 p.m. nightly; special singing with The Haynes Family; Harvey Reeves, evangelist; Gary Haynes, music; Joe Holcomb, pastor.

**Forest Hill, Jackson:** May 16-19; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and family picnic at 2 p.m.; 7 nightly; pot luck supper Saturday, May 18, 6 p.m. Gowan Ellis.

## Revival Results

**Antioch (Neshoba):** March 24-27; Clark Stewart, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Wayne Bishop, Meridian, music; 18 professions of faith; James Young, pastor.

**Midway Church, Jackson,** has called **Karen Busby** as youth director. She is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi.



Busby

Bryan Abel is pastor.

**Arlis V. Nichols**, pastor of **Harperville Church, Harperville**, retired April 28. He is available for pulpit supply, interim



Nichols

pastorate, or as revival music director. Before entering the pastorate Nichols served churches in Mississippi and Alabama as minister of music, youth, and education. In May of 1994 he produced an album of humor. Nichols can be contacted at 1142 County Road 375, Enterprise, MS 39330, or call (601) 659-9991.

**Calvary Church, Petal**, has called **David Shofner** as pastor effective May 1. A graduate of Mississippi College, Shofner pastored in Florida for 23 years and also served as a missionary in Honduras.



Shofner

**Antioch Church, Columbus**, has called **Philip Lundy** as minister of youth effective April 7. The Louisville native is a graduate of East Mississippi

Community College.

**J.C. Prather** has been called as the director of missions for **Prentiss Association**. Prather is a graduate of Northeast Community College, Mississippi State University in Starkville, and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He served as associate director of missions in Lee Association for the past five years. A reception in his honor was held at the association's offices in Booneville on May 5.

**Thomas R. Tutor** retired April 30 from the pastorate of **Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale**. He is available for interim, revivals, and other speaking engagements. He can be reached at 234 Briarcrest Circle, Pontotoc, MS 38863.



Tutor

## Help! Do you have a new address?

The Baptist Record needs your help if you have a new "911" (Rural Route Conversion) address. As soon as your local post office has given official notification to use your new address, please send it — along with your old address or incorrect label — immediately to your church secretary or directly to our office: **The Baptist Record, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.**

Take a mission group to



Come over and help us.

Southern Baptists make up only 3 percent of the 1.2 million people living in the Greater New Orleans area.

Cross over to New Orleans on your 1996 mission trip. With a minimum of time and expense you can share Christ through:

- Block Parties
- Street Evangelism
- Door-To-Door Witnessing

Crossover New Orleans  
June 7-9, 1996

For more information, call HMB Church Growth and Associational Evangelism Department at 770 410-6244 or the Louisiana Baptist Convention at 318 448-3402.

**HMB**  
HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**RATE:** 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**PASSENGER VANS FOR** private and church groups. From \$54.95 per day/limited free miles/ 7- to 15-seat. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

**CHURCH PEW CUSHIONS:** Manufactured in our plant. For free estimate contact — Emmons Brothers, P.O. Box 186, Meridian, Miss. 39301. Since 1899. Phone (601) 693-4451.

**BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR.** Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 1526 Gardner Blvd., Columbus, MS 39702; 1-800-349-2882.

**CHOIR ROBES & accessories,**

pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

**ATTENTION! BI-VOCATIONAL** ministers and music directors: Supplement your church income. Earn \$500-\$1,000 per week with American Protective. Leads furnished, no overnight travel or cash investment — We train you. Call (601) 582-9000 for confidential interview.

**SEE THE GREAT** Passion Play, Eureka Springs, Ark. \$31 Group Pkg. includes the Best (\$13) Tickets, plus fun, lodging, & meals. Where One Call Does It ALL: Keller's Country Dorm Resort, (501) 253-8418.



## Uniform Loving the unlovable



By David Mitchell  
Matthew 5

**The resistance laws.** The verses Matthew 5:38-40 are a section taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" seems to be a harsh law. The law is a portion of the Old Testament law of retaliation (Lev. 24:17-20), which stated that the punishment given for a particular crime was to be in the same proportion as the crime committed. Jesus rewrote it, saying, "turn the other cheek," because evil cannot overcome evil. The clear teaching of Jesus is that we are not to have a spirit of hatred and revenge.

The second illustration Jesus gave also came from Jewish law (v. 40). The law allowed a person to sue someone who owed him a debt for his coat. The coat was an inner garment which was usually made of linen. Over the coat was worn the outer garment commonly called the cloak or mantle. The law allowed a person to sue someone for his coat, but not for his cloak. Often the cloak was used as an outer garment during the day and by the poor as a bed covering at night. The instruction of Jesus was to go further than the law dictated, and be willing to give even more than the law required.

In Jesus' day a Roman soldier could force a Jew to carry his pack for one mile. It is easy to see that this could cause hateful feelings to arise in the heart of a Jew. Those who were forced to travel one mile should voluntarily travel the second mile, Jesus said. Again, the teaching was to return good for evil. Jesus instructed his disciples to let generosity rule the day rather than revenge. Christians should be willing to do more than they can be forced to do by law.

Continuing the theme of generosity, Jesus taught that those who follow him are to give to those who come to them in need (v. 42). He was not instructing us to promote laziness nor to support the idle at the expense of the industrious. Rather, we are to give to those who are poor and needy. Selflessness is the rule of the day when we relate to others.

**The love laws.** Jesus helps us understand the meaning of the word neighbor. The Jew usually interpreted neighbor as meaning only a fellow Jew. Jesus was referring in this passage to the attitude of hatred prevalent among the Jews which condoned hatred of enemies such as Samaritans and Philistines. Jesus blasted this attitude, stating that one should pray for his persecutors and love his enemies (v. 44). We are to aid those who are our enemies in times of trial by seeking to do them good here and to promote their eternal welfare in the hereafter. Rather than curse those who curse you, Jesus said to bless those who curse you. Rather than returning evil for evil, we are to return good for evil. This is what is meant by loving our enemies. The purpose of living this way is explained in verses 45-48. If one lived and acted in the way that Jesus described in verses 38-45, he or she would be living and acting in such a way that would distinguish him or her as a child of God. The person who lives in such a way would have in his or her nature some of the characteristics of God himself. Christians are to emulate God's actions by doing good to all people. Not only those whom they love, but their enemies. Those who choose to love those who do not love them show that they have experienced God's love because they are able to love as God loves.

This section is concluded by Jesus' stating that his disciples are to be "perfect as your heavenly father is perfect" (v. 48). Luke translated the word perfect to mean "merciful" (Luke 6:36). The idea is that the disciples of Christ are to be complete, pure, holy, and finished. The Greek word used here could originally be applied to a piece of machinery that is complete with all of its parts. When it is applied to Christian disciples, it refers to completeness of parts or perfection where there is no part defective or lacking.

Jesus encouraged his disciples to seek positive relationships rather than revenge. He also encourages us to do more than is required to help other persons. By understanding that God does not discriminate, we should be motivated to love all people by taking Jesus' challenge to attain the lofty standard of God's perfection.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

## Bible Book Warning, encouragement



By Clayton Littlejohn  
Zechariah 1-6

Zechariah and Haggai were contemporary prophets to the Jews who had returned from the 70-year exile in Babylon (Ezra 6:14). Zechariah continued to encourage the people to rebuild the Temple which Haggai had begun to do. God's words of warning and encouragement through Zechariah's vision teaches that he gives his people the power to do his will.

**The Lord's rebuke of Satan (3:1-2).** These verses teach us some important facts about Satan that are often overlooked or misinterpreted: 1) Satan is not in hell right now, but someday will be (Matt. 25:41); 2) he is a real being and not a personification of evil; 3) he stands to accuse God's people (Job 1; Rev. 12); 4) his power is frail compared to God's.

Satan had come before the Lord to accuse Joshua and Israel of their sinfulness and unworthiness and before he could speak the Lord rebuked him. God showed Satan his mercy and forgiveness upon Israel by plucking them out of the fire of Babylon's captivity (v. 2) and removing their soiled garments and replacing them with new ones (vv. 3-5). Satan still accuses God's people today and says we are unworthy to finish God's work, but Jesus stands before God as our High Priest, Saviour, and Advocate declaring us righteous by his blood.

**God's promise to send his servant (3:6-8).** The Lord will grant three privileges to Joshua and his people (v. 7): 1) "thou shalt judge my house" which means, they could make priestly decisions (Deut. 17:9); 2) "thou shalt keep my courts," which means they would have access into his holy sanctuary (Isa. 62:9); 3) "to walk among those that stand by," meaning those standing by were angels who always had access to God.

The day was coming when not just the priest, but all people could have access to God. These privileges were conditional (v. 7): "If thou wilt walk in my ways"; "If thou wilt keep my charge." God's Son — his Word — is his Way (John 14:6), and our service to him and others is our charge today (John 15).

God had/had one special Servant who would come and show how to meet these conditions and enjoy these privileges. He is called "My servant the Branch" (v. 8). This Branch is a person who will one day sit on the throne and rule as King (6:12-13) and is none other than Jesus himself (Jer. 23:5). He will be a servant to Jews and Gentiles, and also sit on the throne as King (Isa. 40:55). As the Branch, you can trace his family tree back to David (Matt. 1:1). As the Servant, he came to serve and give the example that we are to follow (John 13:15). The mention of "thy fellows" (v. 8) are the priests who served with Joshua and represents believers today who make up God's kingdom of priests who are to offer up spiritual sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5). Today, we are "the fellows" that have the privilege of serving the Branch (Jesus) by offering ourselves as living sacrifices.

**The lampstand and the two olive trees (4:1-5).** The Lampstand, translated *menorah*, was the only source of light in the tabernacle and temple, and was symbolic of Jesus as the light (John 1:5-9; 8:12). It also symbolized Israel, who was to be a light in the world, and the church today (Rev. 2:3). This lampstand is different from the original one of Moses in that it has a "bowl" on the top that would hold a continuous supply of oil and would not have to be filled on a daily basis. The oil would come from the two olive trees which were connected to the lampstand (4:10-14) by the "golden pipes."

**A promise of power (4:6,8-10a).** Oil is often symbolic of the Holy Spirit, and is the source of the power in Chapter 4, verse 6. The Holy Spirit is our oil or power today (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; Heb. 1:9; 1 John 2:20, 27). Zerubbabel would complete the building of the temple (v. 9), and it was considered a "small thing," (v. 10) compared to the one Solomon built (Ezra 3:12). No matter how small or great the house (vv. 9-10) or project God has given us to build, we need his power upon it. If it has been built by the power of God, then the people will rejoice and not be discouraged (v. 10). If your building program or mission project lacks enthusiastic participation, pray for the power of God to take over. You will see joy overcome the discouragement.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

## Life and Work You can trust God



By Linda Donnell  
2 Thessalonians 1

I remember as a child on many occasions uttering the words "cross my heart and hope to die" to emphasize the seriousness of my remarks. With this oath, I, and my young friends, believed without a doubt any words spoken — unless, of course, our fingers were crossed behind our back. As I grew older I was taught the importance of being responsible enough to do what I said I was going to do. Unfortunately, some of us still cross our fingers behind our back. But we can be assured that God does not. What he says, we can believe. God can be trusted.

**An enduring faith (vv. 2-4).** Paul began his second letter to the Thessalonian believers with almost the exact words with which he began his first letter. He again greeted them with "grace" and "peace"; wishing for them God's favor and well-being (v. 2). Again he started this letter with thanksgiving for the evidence of the Christian graces in the lives of the new Christians. There is the great wisdom of a wise leader in these words. Paul is aware of much imperfection in the church and is about to mention and rebuke the ignorance and deception which has been reported to him. Yet he does not allow their shortcomings to blind him to their virtues. Many of us could learn from the apostles' wisdom. It is so often easy to see only the moral weaknesses in others, which leads us to a feeling of superiority.

Paul praises his fellow believers for the progress in their faith and love (v. 3). Sometimes wise praise can accomplish what indiscriminate criticism can never achieve. We should note that the apostle does not congratulate the Thessalonians but rather gives thanks to God. This, too, we might apply to our Christian walk today. We may give credit to the Lord for our salvation, but it is easy to give ourselves the credit for any spiritual growth. It is only through God's grace that we receive and grow beyond that point.

Paul was not only thankful for the new believers' enduring faith, he was boastful. The Thessalonians had experienced and continued to experience intense persecution; yet, their growth in love, faith, and patience had not been hindered by these difficult circumstances. God can use our struggles to help us grow.

**A just judgment (vv. 5-10).** The fact that Paul's readers were remaining faithful even as they were persecuted offered evidence of God's work in their lives. God had given them the strength and help to remain faithful to him. Through their persecutions he was preparing them to "be worthy citizens of the kingdom of God" (v. 5). As we experience God's rule in our lives, it is inevitable that we face a confrontation with the world. We must be ready to deal with the resulting suffering as did the Thessalonians.

The apostle wanted his readers to know that God was not unjust in permitting them to suffer and assured them that the wicked would be punished (v. 6). Whether in time or eternity, retribution is inevitable. God's persecuted children will find rest at the Lord's return (v. 7).

Paul's picture of God's judgment is probably taken from Old Testament passages, even though he did not quote them exactly. "In flaming fire" (Isa. 66:15) God will return and render judgment (v. 5). Unbelievers will experience "everlasting destruction" — away from the presence of the Lord. This may seem to be a harsh picture, as indeed it is for those living in sin. But Christians can be encouraged in the middle of their suffering because they know God is just and will justly judge at his return. His loyal believers will share in the glory of the returning Lord (v. 10). This is indeed reason for thanksgiving.

**A worthy calling (vv. 11-12).** Paul's prayer was that the Thessalonian Christians would live in such a way as to demonstrate their worthiness to be part of God's call. The emphasis here should show us that we are to only answer God's call and hang up. Often we put our call on hold, or forward it to someone else, or even find ourselves too busy to talk. God's call demands action, no matter what the circumstances.

The Christian walk is certain to encounter difficulties and uncertainties. Evil forces are at work in the world. But we can be assured that God is in control. He is there to empower us and to grow us. He can be trusted — and he will not cross his fingers.

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.



# capsules

**OUTDATED AV EQUIPMENT SOUGHT FOR THIRD WORLD:** WACO, Texas (ABP) — Film projectors gathering dust in church closets could improve the quality of life in developing countries and provide an avenue for Christian witness, says a Baptist layman in Waco, Texas. As vice president of Amigos Internacionales, Bob Sloan is soliciting outdated audiovisual equipment to help build media libraries in Third World countries. And as vice president for Texas Baptist Men's educational fellowship, he hopes to enlist Baptist teachers as volunteer trainers in educational technology around the globe. Amigos Internacionales is a non-profit agency devoted to Third World development. Housed at First Church of Woodway in Waco, the organization works closely with Texas Baptist Men in international ministries. Video, CD-ROM and computer-generated graphics are making 16 mm film obsolete in the United States, Sloan said, but the old-fashioned projectors are cutting-edge technology in developing nations. Already, the laymen have sent projection equipment to the Ukraine and Zambia, and they are helping to establish a 3,000-item media library in Haiti.

**CAMPBELLSVILLE ANNOUNCES NEW STATUS, NAME:** CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. (BP) — *Campbellsville (Ky.) College has announced it is changing to university status. Now to be known as Campbellsville University, the Baptist-affiliated university will reach "heights never before imagined," said John Chowning, trustee chairman and a Baptist minister from Campbellsville, making his prediction on behalf of the trustees, administration, faculty, staff, student body, and alumni.*

**RTVC TO PREMIERE DOCUMENTARY AFTER SBC:** FORT WORTH (BP) — Messengers to the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans will have a chance to see the world premiere of a one-hour television documentary produced by the Radio and Television Commission that will later be broadcast by NBC affiliates. The documentary, "The American Dream/Nightmare," will be shown at the SBC June 11 at 9 p.m. in quad rooms 7-11 of the SuperDome. "Many Southern Baptists are not aware that we annually produce documentaries that are broadcast by affiliates of the ABC and NBC television networks," said Jack Johnson, RTVC president. "Having a premiere of 'The American Dream/Nightmare' at the convention is an opportunity to showcase the quality of work that we do," he said.

**HEBREW SCHOLAR TO JOIN SOUTHEASTERN FACULTY:** WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — *Highly respected, passing his colleagues for his scholarship and his rapport with students, Mark Rooker will join the faculty at Southeastern Seminary this fall as associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew. The seminary's board of trustees unanimously elected Rooker to the post during their March meeting. Rooker, 44, comes to Southeastern from Criswell College in Dallas, where he has served as chairman and professor of Old Testament and Hebrew since 1992. He is currently completing a commentary on Leviticus for the New American Commentary Series; the volume is expected to be released by Broadman & Holman Publishers in late 1997.*

**TANNER BRIEFLY IN HOSPITAL AFTER MILD HEART ATTACK:** SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP) — William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO), will be out of his office at least until May 15 after undergoing an angioplasty procedure April 22. He suffered a mild heart attack April 18 and was hospitalized first in Shawnee. He was transferred to Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City where physicians removed most of the blockage in one artery. Damage to his heart was described as minor. Robert Haskins, BGCO associate executive director, said Tanner is recovering at home and is "doing fine." He has cancelled most of his speaking engagements in the near future.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1996

XTIA SIYILISIU P XTI ENSU NR XTI DNSU, TNE  
XTOX TI FOPU, GNTA PAUIU LOMXPBIU EPXT  
EOXIS; LZQ QI FTODD LI LOMXPBIU EPXT XTI  
TNDQ HTNFX.

OJXF IDIWI: FPKXIIA

This week's clue: U equals D.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Two: Eleven.

# Covenant tour a natural fit for Mississippi native Wall

FORT WORTH (BP) — A year ago Mississippi native Debbie Wall had no idea 1996 would put her in Southern Baptist churches across the country. Then the Radio and Television Commission



Wall

(RTVC) began a cooperative effort with Christian pianist Dino to promote its "Covenant" ministry with a series of concerts called the "Dino 'Family Values' Concert Tour."

Wall, who directs the Covenant ministry, has since been in Southern Baptist churches from Colorado to Virginia.

"It has been a wonderful experience," she said, "because I've had opportunity to bond with other Southern Baptists throughout the country. And, while we may be separated geographically, I've been impressed with our similarities. We may live in different parts of the country, but it's as if we are all family because of the bond of Christ."

Wall thinks Covenant, the

cause she represents, is one that all Southern Baptists can agree on.

"I haven't met a Southern Baptist, a Christian for that matter, who doesn't agree on the reason for Covenant," she said.

Covenant is an effort taking action to make a positive difference

in today's media, Wall said, by producing and distributing Christian family values television programming, by educating American families to discern good media from bad and by commending the positives in media.

"Simply put, Covenant is committed to ministering to America's families by promoting Christian family values in media," Wall said.

All Covenant programs are broadcast nationwide on either FamilyNet or ACTS, the television program services of the

RTVC. "Miracles," an inspirational TV program and video featuring Dino in concert, was made possible in part through a large gift to Covenant, which, Wall said, made him a natural to be a spokesperson for the ministry.

"Dino is a strong advocate of Christian family values programming, especially programming for children," she said.

"That has come across at all the concerts on the tour. He is very committed to the Covenant ministry and all that the RTVC is attempting to accomplish."

Wall is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where her father is a professor. She also has a degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Singing, Wall said, came naturally to her. She sang her first solo in church when in elementary school.

"Christian music impacted my life a great deal," she said. "Our music director at First Church, Oxford, was George McFadden, who exposed us to many ministry opportunities through music. I considered majoring in music in college, but music classes turned something I loved into drudgery."

At the University of Mississippi, where she graduated magna cum laude, Wall minored in music and majored in communications. She still sings as often as possible in churches and performs in a Christian drama group.

Wall said her theater background makes her even more aware of the need for the Covenant m

The following Mississippi churches will host Dino in his "Family Values" series of concerts as part of the Covenant ministry:

First Church, Jackson  
May 26, 6 p.m.

First Church, Laurel  
May 28, 7 p.m.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*I feel that I received bad counseling from my pastor that resulted in my divorce. I want to sue my pastor, but I know the Bible discourages lawsuits among believers. What should I do?*

You are correct that the Bible discourages believers from taking each other to court (1 Cor. 6:1-7). Matt. 18:15-17 instructs us to talk with people we feel have wronged us. We are further instructed to take along one or two other people as necessary, and to take the problem before the church as a last resort. Write down your hurts and the points at which you believe you received bad counsel from your pastor. Examine the list and honestly ask yourself whether the pastor was wrong, or your expectations were unrealistic. Did you accept the pastor's counsel, or did you make a decision on your own that you now regret? Be specific and look at all sides of this matter. Enlist an objective, Christian third party (possibly a therapist) who can help you understand the situation before you take drastic mea-

sures. Objective decisions are difficult to make in such an emotional setting.

*My girlfriend killed herself after I decided not to marry her. I know it's not my fault, but I feel guilty about her death.*

Your guilt is a normal part of the grieving process. Give yourself permission — and take the necessary time — to grieve this loss. Tragic deaths are difficult to overcome, and in the case of a suicide there is always the thought, "I should have known; if only I had done something." The fact remains that there is nothing one can do to stop a person intent on suicide. Your girlfriend was distraught and chose death as the only way to relieve her pain. There were other options, but the state of her life prevented her from considering those other options. You must realize that you did not kill your girlfriend — the decision was hers. Instances such as this should motivate us as Christians to be mindful of the needs of people around us, and strive to build up others in Christ.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Baptist Record

CARRIER ROUTE 39  
005-DTM 5-09  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL 50000  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

May 9, 1996